Amendments to and listing of the Claims:

Please cancel claim 24, without prejudice, and amend claims 1, 26 and 27, without prejudice, as set forth in the following listing of the claims, which replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) [[A]]An aqueous nasal or ocular drug delivery composition ~~in the form of an aqueous solution or suspension~~ having a viscosity of 150 cP or less at 25°C for ~~nasal or ocular~~ delivery ~~in the form of a spray or drops~~ of a systemically acting therapeutic agent across a mucosal surface into an animal's systemic circulation, wherein the composition ~~comprising~~ is an aqueous solution in which (i) chitosan, a salt thereof, or a derivative thereof that has been formed by bonding of acyl or alkyl groups with the hydroxyl groups of the chitosan or a salt of the derivative, (ii) a polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt, and (iii) triethyl citrate as a plasticizer, are dissolved; and in which (iv) ~~a~~ the systemically-acting therapeutic agent as the drug is dissolved or suspended in the aqueous solution.

2.-6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chitosan, the salt or the derivative or the salt of the derivative has a molecular weight of 4000 Dalton or greater.

8. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 7, wherein the chitosan, the salt or the derivative thereof or the salt of the derivative, has a molecular weight of from 50,000 to 300,000 Dalton.

9. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, comprising chitosan base or a nitrate, phosphate, sulphate, citrate, hydrochloride, glutamate, lactate or acetate salt of chitosan.

10. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the chitosan has a degree of deacetylation of 40 % or greater.

11. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 10, wherein the degree of deacetylation is from 70 to 90 %.

12. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, comprising from 0.25 to 3.0 % w/v of the chitosan, the salt or the derivative or the salt of the derivative expressed as chitosan base.

13. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 12 comprising from 0.45 to 1.5 % w/v of the chitosan, the salt or the derivative or the salt of the derivative expressed as chitosan base.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the polyol-phosphate salt is β-glycerophosphate disodium.

16. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt is present in an amount of from 0.25 to 3.0 % w/v.

17. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 16, wherein the polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt is present in an amount of from 0.75 to 2.0 % w/v.

18. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, comprising from 0.05 to 5.0 % w/v of triethyl citrate.

19. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 18, comprising from 0.2 to 1.0 % w/v of triethyl citrate.

20. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, additionally comprising ascorbic acid.

21. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 20, comprising from 0.01 to 0.2 % w/v ascorbic acid.

22. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is a polar drug, a polypeptide, a gene or a gene construct.

23. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 22, wherein the therapeutic agent is insulin, calcitonin, leuprolide, luteinising hormone releasing hormone, growth hormone or a growth hormone releasing factor, naratriptan, sumatriptan, zolmitriptan, rizatriptan, eletriptan, frovatriptan, alnitidan, avitriptan, almotriptan, apomorphine, sildenafil, alprostadil, diamorphine, hydromorphone, buprenorphine, fentanyl, oxycodone, codeine, morphine or morphine-6-glucuronide.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of the composition as defined in claim 1, which process comprises mixing triethyl citrate, a solution comprising chitosan or a salt or derivative thereof or a salt of the derivative and a solution comprising a polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt.

26. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for transporting a systemically-acting therapeutic agent across a nasal or ocular mucosal surface of an animal, the process comprising administering to the animal's nasal or ocular mucosal surface ~~a~~ an aqueous composition having a viscosity of 150 cP or less at 25°C, ~~in the form of a spray or drops of an aqueous solution or suspension~~ wherein the composition ~~comprising~~ is an aqueous solution in which (i) chitosan or a salt thereof or a derivative thereof that has been formed by bonding of acyl or alkyl groups with the hydroxyl groups of the chitosan or a salt of the derivative, (ii) a polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt, and (iii) triethyl citrate as a plasticizer are dissolved; and in which (iv) the systemically-acting therapeutic agent is dissolved or suspended in the aqueous solution.

27. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for nasal or ocular delivery of a systemically-acting therapeutic agent to an animal, the process comprising nasally or ocularly delivering to the animal ~~a~~ an aqueous having a viscosity of 150 cP or less at 25°C, ~~in the form of a spray or drops of an aqueous solution or suspension~~ wherein the composition ~~comprising~~ is an aqueous solution in which (i) chitosan or a salt thereof or a derivative thereof that has been formed by bonding of acyl or alkyl groups with the hydroxyl groups of the chitosan or a salt of the derivative, (ii) a polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt, and (iii) triethyl citrate as a plasticizer are dissolved; and in which (iv) the systemically-acting therapeutic agent is dissolved or suspended in the aqueous solution.

28.-35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 26 wherein the composition is ocularly delivered to the animal.

37. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 26 wherein the composition is nasally delivered to the animal.

38. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 37 wherein the animal is a human.

39. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 27 wherein the composition is ocularly delivered to the animal.

40. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 27 wherein the composition is nasally delivered to the animal.

41. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 40, wherein the animal is a human.